

Abstract

[0039] A manufacturing equipment scheduler controls the run sequences of product lots to minimize low utilization rates of units of manufacturing equipment within a manufacturing facility. The manufacturing equipment scheduling system includes a product lot sequence controller that receives priority information of the product lots dispatched for fabrication. The product lot sequence controller determines a priority of a currently dispatched product lot. If the current product lot has a high priority, the product lot sequence controller then determines if a previous product lot remains in a selected unit of processing equipment and has a normal priority. If the previous product lot has a normal priority, the product lot is removed from the selected unit of processing equipment and the product lot with the high priority is processed. Upon completion of processing the current product lot with high priority, processing for the previous product lot is continued.